

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **5 May 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-19. Claims 1-3 and 10-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al (USPN 6,598,036, hereinafter “Wang”), in view of Hardy et al (USPN 4,648,044, hereinafter “Hardy”). Claims 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang, in view of Hardy, and further in view of de Judicibus (USPN 6,651,054, hereinafter “de Judicibus”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claim 1 was rejected as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Hardy. Applicant respectfully points out that the combined system of Wang and Hardy teaches **using an existing function** to locate character strings in a knowledge base (see Hardy, col. 11, lines 40-67).

In contrast, the present invention **creates a function** from a rule that is supplied by a user to evaluate one or more parameters from the knowledge base (see page 7, line 10 to page 8, line 12 of the instant application). This is beneficial because it provides a technique for a user to rapidly assess varied parameters within the database. There is nothing within Wang or Hardy, either explicit or implicit, which suggests creating a function from a rule that is supplied by a user to evaluate one or more parameters from the knowledge base.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to clarify that the present invention creates a function from a rule that is supplied by a user to evaluate one or more parameters from the knowledge base. These amendments find support on page 7, line 10 to page 8, line 12 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 as presently amended is in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that

claims 2-19, which depend upon claim 1, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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